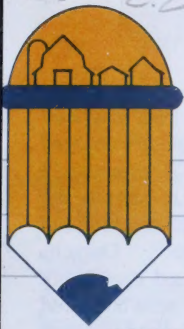


SEP 21 1993



## Agriculture in the Classroom

## The Agriculture Newsletter for Teachers

### FALL EDITION 1993

## THE 1993 DARYL CHICHAK AWARD OF MERIT

**Institute grads recognized  
for their achievements**

**A** year after the inception of the Daryl Chichak Award of Merit, four deserving graduates of the Summer Agriculture Education Institute were honoured for their hard work in and dedication to bringing agriculture into their classrooms. The latest recipients of this award of merit, Annalee Hearn, Marilyn Lanz, Connie Dersch-Gunderson, and Betty Hollinda, were thrilled at being recognized for their accomplishments.

"I can hardly believe the magnitude of the honour shown me as one of the first recipients" Hearn admits.

But honour and recognition are the least that can be given in return to these exceptional teachers who have dedicated so much of their time and themselves to bringing agriculture into the classroom.

Over the past year, Marilyn Lanz has gone in leaps and bounds to bridge the apparent gap she sees between city and country folk and life. Of her school kids she admits, "Brentwood students are all town kids and they don't get the opportunity to see what the rural

*cont'd on Page 2*



*One of Marilyn Lanz' students takes a hands-on approach to agriculture while visiting Olds College.*

## Fourth Summer Agriculture Institute A Success!

The 1993 Summer Agriculture Institute, this year in Olds, has gone through another successful run - without a hitch! The thirty participants left Olds College with happy but exhausted smiles on their faces. This years Institute was shortened by a week. It was, as Institute organizer Betty Gabert says, "...a tight and into-the-night schedule."

But less time by no means meant less quality or less fun for the participants. One participant said contentedly, while patting her full stomach after one of the many delicious meals provided by a number of local sponsors, something along the lines of: "If they aren't busy running us off on one of those wonderful farm tours, we're

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## Award of Merit cont'd

life's all about." Thanks to Lanz' hard work, the local school children of Strathmore were treated to farm tours, an Agriculture Fair, and a pilot farm family exchange to mention only a few of the many activities accomplished.

As Annalee Hearn would likely admit, many of the successes in her classroom would not have been possible had she not been able to attend the 1992 Agriculture Education Institute in Vermilion. Hearn admits that she was very pleased to have been invited take part in a round table discussion at this year's Institute in Olds where she was able to

share freely with fellow teaching enthusiasts everything she has learned and experienced in agriculture over the past year.

Although neither Connie Dersch-Gunderson nor Betty Hollinda were able to make it to Olds to accept their awards, they too expressed extreme gratitude for the recognition. Betty Hollinda was recognized primarily for her successful efforts in coordinating her entire school's involvement at the 1992 Ag Ambassador Fair in Medicine Hat. Connie Dersch-Gunderson, who is in the process of organizing an Ag

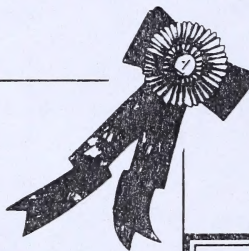
Awareness Day in the Fort MacLeod area, says she has thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the AITC program. "I am thrilled at being able to combine the two things I love the most - teaching and agriculture - into one." Dersch-Gunderson's latest award comes not quite a year after having been honoured at Edmonton's National Agriculture Conference in October of 1992.

Again, our congratulations go out to each of this year's Daryl Chichak Award winners. We look forward to honouring the next year's worthy recipients.

*by Clare Stott*

## A HAPPY GRADUATE

**Annalee Hearn still reeling  
from award presentation**



**Dear Betty, Cindy, Clare and the staff of Agriculture in the Classroom,**

I am still "orbiting" with the honour of receiving the Daryl Chichak Merit Award. Having met Daryl for the first time, I can hardly believe the magnitude of the honour shown me as one of the first recipients. Moreover, to be recognized alongside Marilyn Lanz (an old friend from Etzikom) and Connie Dersch-Gunderson, leaves me in awe. I must say also, my sincere thanks for including me in the round table sessions. I enjoyed sharing with the '93 participants far more than I expected. Please call on me again as my programme seems to be in the "constantly improving" mode. I may, someday, actually feel worthy of the honour I received (at the banquet).

*Annalee Hearn*

## Peace Country SCIENCE HOTLINE!

Resource people available to round up volunteers in the science area answer teachers questions, classroom presentations, act as field trip leaders, science fair judging, teacher workshops and career counselling.

**CALL 1-539-9847**

## Success cont'd

totally involved in one of the classroom sessions, or else they are stuffing us with more of the great food!"

Whether running, sitting or eating all of the participants will readily admit they were constantly learning. And that is exactly what the agenda called for. The Institute, a joint venture between Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Ag in the Classroom program, The United Farmers of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge and a participating college, was implemented as a means of educating the educators and raising awareness on matters of agriculture in Alberta.

One of the many learning high points was the Mini Agriculture Expo. Here participants were able to meet and chat with 38 representatives from all areas of the agriculture industry. The participants were taken aback by the caliber of the displays and the amount of information made available to them. They took much time to glean as much information from the displayers as possible.

After the Mini Expo, the 30 participants and 200 other Institute contributors sat down for an evening of feasting and entertainment. Here at the banquet, each Institute Participant met

up with the local farm family that was later to escort them back to the home-stead for a night and full day of fun and farm experience. None of the participants left their farms without a new, greater appreciation for farm life.

By the time the week was up, and all was said and done, the participants and organizers were ready and willing to collapse in a corner. Luckily, everyone was able to make it home to their own comfy cozy beds.

*by Clare Stott*



# What's New For You!!

AITC Resources for 1993-94

"Good things come to those who wait". And now, after the long rainy summer, AITC has for you some brand new resources to brighten those autumn days.

## New!!

A comprehensive video and revised brochure on Ag in the Classroom Program. If you or someone that you know is not 100% sure what we're all about, get ahold of this new video and brochure FYI.

## A Face lift!!

The 1994 Agriculture Ambassador Fair Prize List for Camrose, 1994 has undergone some reconstructive surgery, so get ahold of the new Prize List lest you and your class be left out in the cold in February... And believe me! It certainly IS cold at that time of year!

## Brand-spankin' New!!

The 1994 Summer Ag Institute brochure and poster for Fairview, 1994 soon to be hot off the press! Keep your eyes peeled!

## Available NOW

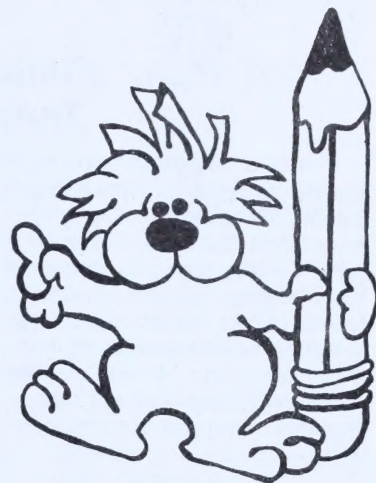
... the 1991 Summer Agriculture Education Institute Teacher's Handbook designed by real-live teachers! The 1992 Teacher's Handbook available in the new year...1994!

## Revised and Ready!!

"Business of Agriculture" Teacher's Handbook for science 10, 20,30, social studies 10, 20 and micro-economics 30 ready for your perusal.

## Last but not least!!

The 1993/94 Agricultural Resource Listing for a complete listing of the above resources, plus a whole bunch more! All the info. you'll ever need for the classroom in an easy to use booklet. Includes a grade and subject suitability chart for quick and painless resource hunting!!



## Come one, come all! Ag. Awareness Day

Brought to you by W.A Day School in Fort MacLeod  
and the Fort MacLeod Agricultural Society

**Where?** Fort MacLeod Curling Arena

**When?** September 10th, 1993

**Why?** For a day full of fun and learning

**Who?** Open to all students grades 1 to 12, 10am to 3pm

Everyone welcome to attend an evening of family fun, dancing and entertainment.

For more information contact  
Connie Dersch-Gunderson at:  
553-3555 or 553-3362.

Enjoy! Be sure to get in touch with the AITC program, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development if you'd like any of these resources. You know where to reach us!

## County of Wheatland Schools Big Winners in the National Soil Conservation Week Poster Contest

The County of Wheatland was the big winner in this year's National Soil Conservation Week Poster Contest. The county held its own soil conservation poster competition and then submitted the posters to the Ag in the Classroom Soil Conservation Poster Contest. Of the 760 entries submitted to the Ag in the Classroom competition, the winner and two runner-up entries were from the County of Wheatland.

The winning entry was submitted by Carla Dowhaniuk from Westmount School in Strathmore. Runner up entries were submitted by Glen Van Bussel from Brentwood School in Strathmore and Barbara Waldner of Rockyford. Chris Rourke from Nelson Heights School in Cold Lake was also a runner-up in the contest.

The Hon. Butch Fischer and Bryan Hearn, representing the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society, presented the students with their awards at the gala opening to National Soil Conservation Week. The winner of the competition received \$50.00 and a book by Grant MacEwan. The runner-up entrants received \$25.00 and a Grant MacEwan book.

The Soil Conservation Poster Contest is an annual event open to grade four to six students. The contest is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Conservation and Development Branch and Ag in the Classroom Program, as well PFRA and ACTS.

by Barb Shackel



## Information Overload: Part Two

### Truth is in the Eye of the Beholder

As a newspaper reporter, I learned a lesson that made me uneasy. It was my job to choose the spin that a story would take when it appeared in print. Covering town council or school board meetings that often stretched on for hours meant choosing which stories to feature, which statements to quote. Depending on how I choose, issues — and the people associated with them — would be viewed positively or negatively by the people who read my articles.

I began to pay more attention to news coverage in the paper and on television. I wondered about the stories that weren't told and the facts that were omitted so they could be boiled down to a six paragraph story or a two minute feed from a live remote.

Then the Gulf War broke out, and one morning I found myself being ushered into a briefing room full of

reporters and camera crews at CFB Cold Lake. We were spoonfed specific pieces of information by the Colonel who answered reporters and camera crews with refried versions of the same information. Then we were ushered back out. This time the reporters weren't doing the selecting, but the information was just as filtered.

For whatever reasons, everyone has their own version of the "truth".

Humans have always sought to put a spin on information to sway the opinion of others. The ancient Greeks made an art out of it, and school debating teams continue the tradition today.

To view situations subjectively is to be human, and we must recognize the right of each of us to possess that subjectivity. But with that comes a responsibility - a responsibility to listen before making our own decisions on an

issue. After all, a good debater learns to anticipate his or her opponent's arguments by becoming familiar with the other side's version of the "truth".

Unlike the debaters of ancient Greece, school children today have vast sources of information available to them. Information experts say that in the first thousand years of recorded history, available knowledge doubled once. Now it doubles every three to six months. Communication technology has exceeded the human ability to absorb information that makes it available.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of teachers to help their students learn how to gain access to information, how to prioritize and select that information, and then how to evaluate it.

Next issue:

**Part Three: Searching for the "truth"**

*By Anne Marie Resta*

**A Young Agri-Historian**

**Stony Plain Student Picks Up the Golden Pen**

### *Stonysberg Address*

*By Wormiham Lincoln*

*Four score and seven months ago our father micro-organisms brought forth upon this soil a new, high quality topsoil, convinced that all micro-organisms should care for soil as they did.*

*Now we are engaged in a great soil war. We have come to dedicate a portion of its final resting place for those who gave their lives so this soil might be able to grow a crop one day. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But in larger sense we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow this ground. It is for us, the living micro-organism rather to be dedicated to their unfinished work which they have thus far so nobly carried on.*

*It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion - that we highly resolve these dead micro-organisms shall not have died in vain; that this dirt shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of micro-organisms, by the micro-organisms, for the organisms, shall not perish from the earth.*

*Wesley Moldovan, Age 11, Grade 5  
Meridian Heights School  
Stony Plain, Alberta*



### **Farm Fun Favorites**

Some Strathmore students got their chance to experience farm life during a weekend stay with local farm families. They all had a blast!! Here's what some of them liked the most:

#### **Jeff and Graham:**

- \* plane ride
- \* playing with goats
- \* playing in the quick sand in the canal

#### **Vanessa and Maggie:**

- \* dressing up like Hutterites
- \* making rugs
- \* washing laundry buckets

#### **Kristie and Alberta:**

- \* seeing a calf born
- \* the bull rubbing on the truck
- \* chicken farm jails

#### **Matthew:**

- \* up at 5:30 pm
- \* target shooting
- \* drove truck and motor bike
- \* bottle feeding calves

#### **Mitchell and Andy:**

- \* sleeping in the hay
- \* gopher hunting
- \* horseback riding

#### **Sara and Hilda:**

- \* feeding sheep
- \* butchering the pig and saving the car
- \* separating the milk
- \* candling eggs



# In the Dead of Winter...Something to Look Forward To!

## 1994 Agriculture Ambassador Fair

As winter fast approaches, we can all look forward to those bright, crisp and clear snow-filled days...or NOT!!! By the time Christmas holidays have come and gone cabin-fever will have hit the classrooms. This is the perfect time to start preparing your classes for this year's Agriculture Ambassador Fair.

In past years, the Agriculture Ambassador Fair has been held in Medicine Hat with over 900 students participating in the Agriculture themed project competition.

This year the agenda has changed. The venue will be in **Camrose**, on February 17th and 18th, and it is expected that participation will far exceed that of previous years.

As in past years, the Fair will be open for competition to all grade levels from K through 12. There are many project classes that students can enter based on their grade level. After the winning entries have been chosen, all the projects and displays will be open for students and the general public to take a look at.

To add some more excitement to the already bustling Fair atmosphere, special agriculture education performances and hands-on activities will be on-going.

A new feature to this Agriculture Ambassador Fair is the initiative to twin schools from both the Edmonton and Camrose areas. "This is a pilot project that intends to explore the opportunities for rural and urban school children to get together and share their ideas and understandings of agriculture" says Betty Gabert, AITC program Administrator and principal organizer to the Agriculture Ambassador Fair.

As the reviews were so positive for the first, an added, special event - a Mini Ambassador Conference - will again be hosted for any and all interested Agriculture Ambassadors. This will be a time for Ambassadors to share all their experiences and achievements over their past year(s) as Ambassadors. All Ambassadors are strongly encouraged to attend. Sharing information is definitely one of the best ways to learn and expand one's resource bank. If you are interested in

attending, be sure not to overlook the tear-off registration form in this newsletter.

The past Agriculture Ambassador Fairs have been huge successes and the up-and-coming Fair in Camrose is also sure to please. We look forward to seeing you and your students there. Please read and share with your colleagues the Prizelist included with this newsletter. If you would like to obtain further copies of the Prizelist, or if you just have general inquiries regarding the Fair or Mini Ambassador conference, please contact the AITC Program office.

by Clare Stott

### Agriculture In The Classroom Newsletter

**PURPOSE:** To provide Alberta educators with a networking tool containing current information on the agriculture industry and related resources that are available for classroom use.

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FAX: 403-438-3362

## REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION MINI-AG AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE

Thursday February 17th - Camrose  
In conjunction with the 1994 Agriculture Ambassador Fair

☐ YES!! I would like a registration form and some more information on the Ambassador Conference!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES, I am an Ag Ambassador

☐ NO, but I would like to become one

Please note, a **\$25.00 registration fee** refundable upon attendance will be required for registration.

Further information will be forwarded to you upon receipt of this form.

If you have any questions, just give us a call at 427-2402 or 427-2171.











